

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 02849 311133Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 IO-13 /073 W
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O R 311052Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3713
AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
CINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR
USELMLO LIVE OAK

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2849

BONN FOR MR. GERMAN

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW
SUBJECT: GDR MODIFIES ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR EAST BERLIN

REFS:A) USBERLIN 2848; B) BERLIN 7336; C) GERMAN/SEMLER TELECON

1. IN RESPONSE TO NUMEROUS PRESS QUERIES, FRENCH
(CHAIRMAN) PRESS SPOKESMAN HAS REPLIED WITH RESPECT TO
NEW GDR VISA REQUIREMENT FOR EAST BERLIN QUOTE THIS
MATTER DOES NOT LEAVE THE ALLIES INDIFFERENT AND IS BEING
STUDIED BY THEM. FOR US THIS NEW MEASURE CANNOT CHANGE
ANYTHING IN BERLIN'S STATUS NOR IN ALLIED RIGHTS. UNQUOTE.
THIS LINE APPEARS IN BERLIN'S DEC 31 PRESS IN SOMEWHAT VARIED FORM.
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PAGE 02 USBERL 02849 311133Z

FRENCH ARE RESISTING UK SUGGESTION THAT ALLIES ISSUE
OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ON GROUNDS THAT DOING SO WOULD
BE PRECIPITOUS ESPECIALLY SINCE FULL DETAILS OF HOW
GDR VISA REQUIREMENT WOULD AFFECT SOME CATEGORIES OF
PERSONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE. WE ARE SUPPORTING FRENCH
DESIRE NOT TO MOVE TOO QUICKLY. RESPONSES OF FRENCH

PRESS SPOKESMAN HAVE, HOWEVER, OCCASIONALLY BEEN CHARACTERIZED AS
QUOTE STATEMENT UNQUOTE IN PRESS.

2. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, FRENCH AND WE ARE SOMEWHAT UPSET AT
A STATEMENT MADE INDEPENDENTLY DEC. 30 BY SENAT PRESS SPOKESMAN
STRUVE WHO IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT MEASURE IS ANOTHER
UNILATERAL GDR EFFORT TO MODIFY THE SPECIAL STATUS OF EAST
BERLIN.

3. WEST BERLIN COMMENTARIES DEC 31 AND TV BROADCASTS
STRESS THAT GDR MEASURE REPRESENTS CHANGE IN EXISTING SITUATION
AND THAT IT REMOVES ONE OF REMAINING DISTINCTIONS
BETWEEN EAST BERLIN AND GDR--I.E. THAT VISAS WERE
REQUIRED OF FOREIGNERS FOR GDR BUT NOT FOR EAST BERLIN.
DIE WELT'S KEMNA SUMMARIZES ISSUE BY QUOTING "POLITICAL
OBSERVERS" TO EFFECT THAT NEW MEASURE IS THE MOST RECENT
GDR EFFORT TO CHANGE THE STATUS OF BERLIN THROUGH FAITS
ACCOMPLIS IN FAVOR OF A NEW "STATE FRONTIER" RUNNING
THROUGH BERLIN. JOURNALISTS ALSO CITE ADDITIONAL DM 5 PER HEAD
GDR WILL RECEIVE THROUGH NEW PROCEDURE AS A GDR MOTIVE. WE NOTE
GDR HAS MADE A NUMBER OF RECENT MOVES ALL OF WHICH WERE
DESIGNED TO BRING ADDITIONAL HARD CURRENCY INTO GDR'S TILL.
WE HAVE ALSO NOTED IN PAST CERTAIN RUMBLE OF GDR
DISCONTENT OVER GUEST WORKERS WHO SWARM INTO EAST BERLIN
WITH EAST MARKS BOUGHT AT 4-1 EXCHANGE RATE, ALONG WITH SCARCE
COSMETICS ETC. AND CUT A WIDE SWATH WITH GDR GIRLS. NEW
REGULATION WILL FORCE THIS CATEGORY OF VISITOR TO RETURN
TO WEST BERLIN BY MIDNIGHT, AS WELL AS TO PAY AN ADDITIONAL
DM 5.

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PAGE 03 USBERL 02849 311133Z

4. MISSIONS WILL CONSIDER QUESTION EARLY NEXT WEEK WITH VIEW
TO A POSSIBLE ALLIED STATEMENT AND CONCEIVABLE COUNTER-
MEASURES. PRESS SO FAR HAS NOT COME UP WITH ANY SUGGESTIONS
FOR COUNTER-ACTION.

5. USCOB CONCURS.
DAVIS

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NNN

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